

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EURE-00 /020 W
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P R 201710Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1242
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS BONN 13983

DOT FOR ENGLE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, OECD
SUBJECT: DATA ON SPEED LIMIT/HIGHWAY FATALITIES

REF: STATE 204242

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED REQUEST CONTAINED REFTEL WITH
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (FMT) OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE
FOR TRAFFIC STATISTICS. HE SAID QUESTION OF SPEED
LIMITS ON HIGHWAYS IS A MATTER OF GREAT CONTROVERSY
BETWEEN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT
(BUNDESTAG) AND AT MANY OTHER LEVELS.

2. THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION FOR ROAD AND
HIGHWAY SYSTEMS (BUNDESANSTALT FUER DAS STRASSENWESEN,
KOELN) IS CONDUCTING A STUDY PROJECT COVERING THE PERIOD
1974-1977, UNDER WHICH SPEED LIMITS OF 100 KM AND 120 KM
HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED ON SELECTED PORTIONS OF THE FEDERAL
HIGHWAY SYSTEM, INCLUDING HIGH ACCIDENT AREAS. IN
ADDITION, OTHER PORTIONS ARE MARKED WITH "RECOMMENDED
SPEED LIMITS" OF 130 KM. THE FMT OFFICIAL SAID THAT,
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FOLLOWING THE FUEL CRISIS IN WINTER 1973-74, A MARKED

FATALITY DROP-OFF WAS RECORDED, BUT NO AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED WHETHER THIS WAS DUE TO A FIVE MONTHS SPEED LIMIT OF 100 KM ON FEDERAL HIGHWAYS, TO THREE SUNDAYS OF AN ABSOLUTE DRIVING BAN ON GERMAN ROADS, OR TO THE FACT THAT MANY PEOPLE CHOSE NOT TO DRIVE AT ALL WITH A SPEED LIMIT.

3. BECAUSE OF THIS LACK OF AGREEMENT, THE FMT PREFERS NOT TO PROVIDE ANY STATISTICAL MATERIAL AT THIS TIME TO BE USED FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES WITHIN AN INTERNATIONAL STUDY. MORE RELIABLE DATA WILL PROBABLY BECOME AVAILABLE IN 1977 AS A RESULT OF THE MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECT NOTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, TRAFFIC SAFETY, STUDIES, HIGHWAY TRAFFIC DATA, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN13983
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760320-0070
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760835/aaaabeih.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 204242
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DATA ON SPEED LIMIT/HIGHWAY FATALITIES
TAGS: ENRG, GE, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006